

How Indonesian Bloggers Empower Civil Society

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Abstract

This paper presents a research report on the characteristics of information presented in eight blogs in 2008 and how those eight bloggers (blog owners) empowered civil society through their published articles. Field data demonstrate that the articles they published contained empowerment messages, achieved positive responses from the blog visitors, and implied that the blog owner conducted their social function as bloggers. However, the dispersed information in the blogs has only obtained one response from each visitor. That information could not develop a dialog for creating a consensus on what civil society should do when they encounter the state. Having seen the relations between persons and blog, bloggers were reluctant to apply interactivity principle when they receive responses from their blog visitors. They were receptive, appreciative, and sympathetic to individuals in responding to their articles. However, only a few of them wished that their participants changed and developed. They expected their changed and grown turned into empowered citizen when they faced the state. In short, Indonesian bloggers are only partially in empowering civil society.

Keywords : blog, blogger, civil society empowerment, interactivity principle, dialog, and relations between persons and blog.

Introduction

Nowadays, blog has been popular in Indonesia. According to Aulia A Muhammad, the Chief Editor for *Suara Merdeka Cybernews*, every ten minutes six blogs are created in Indonesia (Interview, February 28, 2008). If this information is true, there will be 36 Indonesian blogs emerged each hour. Counting the number of blogs born every day, the total number would be $24 \times 36 = 864$ blogs. Thus, the increasing number of blogs in Indonesia would reach $365 \times 864 = 315,360$ blogs. This is a fantastic number of course.

The next problem is why number of blogs in Indonesia is high increasingly? One logical reason is that peoples are free to produce news about themselves and their environment personally. No wonder if most of Indonesian blogs contain trivial things such as personal emotional issues, food recipes, poem quotations, sex tips, wise quotations

from books, etcetera.

Is there anything wrong with those kind of blogs' presentation? The answer is of course not, since one of blog functions, as written in Wikipedia, is an online daily notes (Wikipedia, 2008:1). By this function, a blog generally contains personal stories.

However, another blog function is expressing comments or providing news on certain issues (Wikipedia, 2008:1). Therefore, a blog could provide information from anyone on a particular event or its responses over events or ideas. In this kind of character, a blog actually provides information that may serve public needs. Consequently, a blog becomes one of the most popular media in broadcasting information attained from citizen journalism. Citizen journalism itself, as written by Ana Nadhya Abrar, is a journalism practiced by citizens who are normally treated as media consumers.

The role of bloggers as citizen journalists

requires them to be able to reconstruct their personal experiences into public information. More than that, a citizen journalist is a person who is able to “fully grasp the blood string of citizens, build emotions, and if possible, mobilized citizens,” said Aulia Muhammad (2008:1). Therefore, bloggers have sufficient communication skills although they do not have technical skills as professional journalists would usually have.

Following the above explanations, bloggers are those who are able to grasp reality as they can see and feel, not what is wanted to be seen and felt by audience. Bloggers are those who are able to report news without framing and intention. Bloggers are those who can report experiences as what they are. In this context, bloggers would produce news different from those reported by mainstream mass media.

By the existence of bloggers, the opportunities for those who want to get news without framing and intention may be fulfilled. Their desire in getting news different from mainstream mass media would be satisfied. Their expectations (audiences) to get news closer to the actors would be accomplished.

Regarding to the background above, this paper tries to elaborate the characteristics of information reported in eight blogs in 2008 and the ways of those eight blogs in empowering civil society through their published information.

Propositions and Basic Principles

Research conducted for gaining field data used critical perspective approach. Through this, the researcher is able to elaborate critically the opportunity exercised by bloggers in empowering civil society. This approach requires the researcher to apply several propositions and basic principles as follows:

Propositions on civil society

The expectation towards blogs to empower civil society is essentially derived from many parties, so communication media is able to engage in civil society process. The implementation of civil society, on the other hand, is characterized by domination and hegemony in public sphere (2003:xxii). It implies that civil societies could be formed if every party included, including civil societies are able to perform themselves autonomously and independently. This character is already embedded in blogs. Hence, a blog truly exists in the life of society autonomously and independently.

On the other hand, a civil society may be existed, Ashadi Siregar continued, through regulations guaranteeing the rights of citizens in public sphere (2003:xxiii). It presents that media operating in public sphere is able to fulfill the rights of citizens, among others are rights to know and express opinions (those two rights are assured in UU No. 39 Year 1999 on Human Rights). As the media operating in public sphere, a blog should be able to fulfill the rights to know and rights to express opinion belong to citizens. The next emerged questions is, what must citizens know, and what opinions must be accommodated in blogs?

Practically, the most useful information is about civil society empowerment. Why? Because there are numbers of citizens who recently are unable to respond to problems of the state by regarding the accurate information. Besides, post legislative election of 2009, the existence of citizens seems to be merely utilized for political elites' dolls. In other words, civil societies are going to be marginalized if they have to encounter the state.

Using the terminology of “civil society”

frequently turn into a question, on what civil society truly is? Civil society in this paper is referring to Tocquevillian perspective, which means sovereign and independent associations in societies functions in socializing the civil culture in order to empower democratic desire (in Hikam, 1999:19). As a result, the empowerment of civil society should be understood as the efforts in empowering many independent associations in society in order to empower civil culture resulting in democratic empowerment.

Proposition on agenda extension

One question is materialized, how can blog empower civil society? With all capacities embedded in blog, ideally it cannot apply agenda setting theory (giving information on what should be considered by citizens in decision making); but communicating to citizens on how to consider in decision making. This kind of attitude, as written by Jim Kuypers, is called agenda extension (2002: 198). It is applicable for bloggers regarding that blog is one of citizen journalism media.

Basic principles of citizen journalism

“Blog is full of news coming from citizens for citizens. Blog becomes a news arena containing personal stories and becomes a heaven for all information which has been kept in secrecy for a long time,” Abrar wrote (2008b:1). Consequently, blog is actually a media exercised for reporting news attained from citizen journalism.

One of the basic principles applied in citizen journalism is the news comes from citizen and is dedicated to citizen also. In other words, blog is able to apply basic principle of citizen journalism, from citizens to citizens.

Social function of blogger

In updating their blogs, bloggers are not

also conduct social function. This social function refers to social function of citizen journalism. Its function, as written by Abrar, should be for its own actor in disseminating information (2009:130). Therefore, bloggers perceive themselves as citizen journalists functioning in articulating the interests of audiences. Citizen journalists are not merely actors in mainstream media which only conducting production function. When they are engaged in this social function they are able to produce information which empowering civil society.

According to all explanations, we can conclude several aspects in this research, first, the application of agenda extension conducted by bloggers; second, the types of information published by bloggers in their blogs; third, the implementation of social function of the bloggers; and fourth, the advantages that may be attained by citizens after accessing information in those blogs.

Research Method

This research is an evaluative research on how the bloggers manage their blogs in order to empower civil society. The research would present what appeared in the blogs and why they appeared in such performance.

Therefore, this research observes eight blogs (from 20 blogs) in 2008 applying blog analysis and conducting in depth-interview with its owners. Founded data is analysed by using human and media relations. This research is intentionally choosing this perspective since the issue on exercising blogs is closely related to human and media relations.

Results

The research data is divided into two types, bloggers data and interviews data.

Bloggers data

Opting eight blogs were based on the reality that only a few blogs presenting public information which applicable for empowering civil society. The indicator of public information empowering civil society covers: (1) related to right and objective public facts so they can rationally form the receivers' opinions; (ii) the material is not only analytical but also contains atmosphere and create opportunities for its receivers to respond; and (iii) information is communicated by individuals personally who have autonomy and independence.

1. Jogja blogger

1) Address: <http://febridiansyah.wordpress.com>

Owner : Febri Diansyah, ICW activist
 Residency : Yogyakarta
 Active year : April 2007
 Updating : Almost every month
 Visitor status : 25,763 (until August 2009)
 Mission : -

This article presents the opinion of Febri Diansyah saying that Indonesia is still dominated by corruptors. His opinion is followed by his indications that our society is still permissive over corruption. To support his opinion, Febri shows various data, starting from the position of Indonesia amongst countries in the issue of corruption, the number of corruptors freed from punishment on the trial before general courts and the number of the cases in which Corruption Eradication Commission (CEC) succeed in putting corruptors into jail.

At the end of his writing, Febri asked his readers to save CEC and to reform the General Attorney and Supreme Court (SC). This is his important message of Febri. It was also an agenda

offered to his readers. In this context, Febri have shown his social function of blogger.

Another problem was, how were the responses of the readers toward the Febri's writing? At least there were two responses occurred. First, "I am glad with the eagerness for anti-corruption campaigning as shown in this blog. I am fully supporting this kind of movements. Regards from marginalized people." Second, "I am not comfortable with the actions taken by CEC which only limiting their efforts on the non-arbitrary bodies. It seems they do not have good intention to investigate the case within SC. Or SC is too smart for them? How could CEC be so foolish?" First response underlined the affirmative statement in empowering anti-corruption body. Meanwhile, the second response critized CEC that seems powerless in facing SC. The last one is interesting. Febri should have replied to the comment. However, Febri neglected it. As a result, consensus on how CEC should encounter SC was never been discussed.

Since this consensus had never been showed up, the visitors of the blog had never received suggestions on how to clean SC and how to straighten-up the environment of the arbitrary bodies. They did not know exactly how to face SC in order to avoid being fooled by SC. In this point, we conclude that the writing of Febri is not fully empowering civil society.

2) Address : <http://nurrahmanarif.wordpress.com>

Owner : Nur Rahman Arif, the student of Industrial Engineerin Department, Indonesian Islamic University
 Residency : Yogyakarta
 Active year : September 2008

Updating : One update per month
 Visitor status : 19,977 (until August 26, 2009)
 Mission : Sharing ideas, opinions, knowledge with other people on the phenomenon or issues on social life, economic, education, which are empowering

The article was written by Nur Rahman Arif using inductive logics. The central message was located at the end of the writing. This central message persuaded the readers to move to other planets. This persuasion was emerged because Nur was skeptical towards the efforts to preserve the earth.

Was it true that Nur was seriously persuading his blog readers to consider to move to other planets? Of course not. He was only reminding our society that the earth is already out of order and human as its inhabitants do not have any concern towards the environment. Seeing this kind of condition, this was not impossible that the earth was not safe and comfortable anymore for human. If the condition was already like that, of course it was better for human to move to another planet.

This message contains a satirical tone. Isn't true that hitherto we have not recognized accurately whether there is a life in other planets as in the earth? However, through his writing, Nur was actually intimidating the society about their ignorance towards the safety of the earth. So ignorant that society seems to be already considering move to another planet, Nur thought.

Behind the intimidation, Nur actually wanted us to care more towards the preservation of the earth.

He wanted Indonesian people to be educated since the beginning to care more about the earth's sustainability. His persuasion, however, is enthusiastically greeted by his readers. One of them wrote, "Migration to other planet, what an awful picture. Come on, we take care of our earth altogether so that earth sustainably becomes beautiful place for us and for all earth's inhabitants."

Other respondent also replied in similar manner. He commented, "Hopefully the earth's inhabitants are immediately aware of preserving the only and the one earth. But Purworejo *Insya Allah* has not been like your illustration, I told you..."

The society wants to preserve the earth. Nevertheless, how can they perform it? They understood that the government, for the sake of economic growth, has engaged in earth destruction. They also recognized that the government would eager to create nuclear-powered plant. They also realized that the government should be warned to also preserve the earth. But Nur's writing in the next section did not discuss the issue on what the society should do when they face the government in the earth's exploitation. The writing dead stopped there. There was no intention to develop a dialog with the commentators.

In conclusion, Nur's writing was not sufficient to be called empowering civil society. This writing was only creating an awareness that the earth is already out of order and all society must engage in the preservation. After that, the matters on how responding the earth exploitation conducted by the state were given back to the readers.

2. Solo blogger

1) Address: <http://ichamor.blogspot.com>

Owner : "FikirJernih" (Clearmind)

Residency : Solo

Active year : November 2008
 Updating : Last: August 25, 2009
 Visitor status : 420 (until August 26, 2009)
 Mission : -

The article explained the condition of life in the earth which has been changed due to the global warming. The blog content was translated by the blogger from a site in the Internet. The style of the writing was descriptive. Consequently, his explanation tried to explicate all the impacts of the global warming.

Through this article, the writer tried to develop the awareness of the society for reducing the process of global warming. Given the facts, the writer warned society that the global warming was not a joke, but become a reality in our everyday lives. Nevertheless, in the article the writer did not propose a concrete suggestion in what way the society should do in order to reduce the global warming.

The response emerged was only a positive attitude towards the writer's aspiration. Riky Perdana, for example, wrote, "Thank you for the article...I support the preservation of the earth from the global warming...I am proud, there is somebody who thinks about nature as you are." Meanwhile, a blog Joker commented, "Very, I agree, the global warming must be stopped; hopefully coals and oils could be replaced by nature-friendly materials...Amen. Heal the World." There was no continuation of information from the writer therefore the dialog was lacked.

As a result, the society could not empower themselves in facing the global warming. They only understand that the global warming must be reduced.

They did not attain information about what should they do to curb the global warming.

In the context of coal, for example, the society did not know how to hamper the government in giving permit for excavating coal from the land in East Kalimantan. They did not do anything toward the coal mining. It means that they were still powerless when they had to encounter the government in the case of coal mining although the coal mining was also triggering the global warming.

2) Address: <http://tiyoe.wordpress.com>

Owner : Tri Untoro
 Residency : Solo
 Active year : April 2008
 Updating : Update monthly
 Visitor status : 20,695 (until September 8, 2009)
 Mission : want to step in the world of writing through blog, hopefully it would be advantageous

The article explained that Tri Untoro did not agree with the attitude of some of Indonesian citizens who directing their anger to the government over the Malaysian claims on Indonesian culture. He assured that the anger was overly expressed since the cultural product of one country would not exceed the inter-regional borders in the future. In the case of Malaysian claim, Tri Untoro said that anyone in Malaysia could claim that as their inherited culture from their ancestors who were Indonesian. It was possible that they have long been recognized the disputable culture. They felt that the culture belonged to their own.

Tri Untoro also expressed his opinion that Indonesian society would not need to quarrel over Malaysian claim. It was very possible that Malaysian was looking for their own identity. The one needed to be remembered was that, Indonesia and Malaysia are two friends that able to do many things to support repressed ones in Palestine.

Through his article, Tri Untoro persuaded the society to think clearly by uplifting the rational aspect. He asked the society not to follow their emotions in responding to the Malaysian claim. It was how Tri Untoro tried to empower the society, especially when they encountered Malaysian citizens.

The attitude of Tri Untoro received a positive comment. A visitor wrote, "I agree with you, bro... when talking about something especially about culture which has a similar source don't be too fast taking conclusions... Please be careful... Don't take the media news for granted... Actually, something appearing in the surface was not always true."

It probably that the response was positive, Tri Untoro did not reply. There was no dialog on how to practice clear thinking in doing daily life. For sure there were not many Indonesian who had direct interactions with Malaysian citizens. However, how to clear thinking was applicable in the society in responding to many cases occurred in this life, including in how to interact to the government.

3. Surabaya blogger

1) Address: <http://joeniartanto.wordpress.com>

Owner : Joeni Arianto Kurniawan, lecturer of Airlangga University and the Coordinator for Institute for Law Advocacy for Mud Victims (LAMV)

Residency : Surabaya
Active year : June 2008
Updating : August 18, 2009, updated every two month
Visitor status : 7,422 (until August 26, 2009)
Mission : as a discursive facility for Indonesian revolution, and as a medium to persuade Indonesian people to unite in order to accomplish the Indonesian revolution.

By those kind of title, Joeni Arianto Kurniawan wanted to say that Indonesia was actually incompetent to be called a constitutional state. The main reason was, Indonesia did not respect the constitutional rights of Lapindo mud victims as citizens. The government showed the disobedience by issuing various regulations which were counter to constitutional advocacy over the Lapindo mud victims. It was not overly stated that Joeni then asked the society to initiate Indonesian constitutional revolution.

His opinion was affirmed by Jatigalih Rhamadian. Jatigalih wrote, "The law in this country is already killed by the power of money. I am so pessimistic with the constitutional solutions. Moreover, they (Lapindo) was cleverly directing the public opinion, has the media been bought by them, Sir? If it is true, I do not know Indonesia would be like and go to what direction, it seems dark... ." It shows that there were other persons who had similar opinion to Joeni's.

There might be many people who supporting Joeni's opinion. However, the emerged problem was,

Joeni's persuasion of doing constitutional revolution is not attracted any positive attention. There is not any comment on the persuasions. The strange thing was, Joeni also did not show how to do the Indonesian constitutional revolution. Therefore, the society did not know how should they participate in Indonesian constitutional revolution. The society did not receive information on how they should protect their constitutional rights. It is clear that they are powerless when they have to encounter the governmental power.

2) Address :

<http://angkringanmaswied.blogspot.com>

Owner : Nuur Widiastomo, public official
 Residency : Surabaya
 Active year : January 2008
 Updating : update enough
 Visitor status : 280 (September 3, 2008)
 Mission : creating an interactive media through virtual *angkringan* for the advancement of society

The idea contained in the article is simple: it was not easy for lawmakers to sweep all corruptions in Surabaya. One of the causes is, Penal Code (PC) did not recognize reversed proofing. PC only recognized *Nullum delictum, noella poena sine praevia lega poenali*. The last principle is unable to put corruptor into jail.

Regarding to this fact, Nuur Widiastono proposed that Indonesian law court should apply reversed proofing principle in processing the corruption cases, including bribery. This proposal was agreed by one visitor, Eshape Waskita. Eshape

wrote, "Hope that the dream is better than that of what we dreamt. Amen."

Although he got a supporter, Nuur did not write another article to respond, for example about what should be done in advocating the law maker to do reversed proofing. Nuur stopped at the development of sensibility on the need of reversed proofing in the trials of corruption cases.

This condition is not empowering the society, The society, as the holder of people sovereignty, is powerless encountering the lack of Indonesian constitution in protecting the public interests when they have to face the corruptors. The society is still the loser in sweeping the corruption.

4. Jakarta blogger

1) Address: <http://titiana-adinda.blogspot.com>

Owner : Titiana Adinda
 Residency : South Jakarta
 Active year : December 2006
 Updating : very update, almost every month is updated
 Visitor status : 3,600 (until August 26, 2009)
 Mission : to empower the society through articles on the daily life and articles published in mass media

The book resume was quoted by Titiana Adinda from the writing of Y. Budi Utomo. However, she put her writing similar to the resumed book, *The Violence Happened to Me Frequently* (VHMF). The violence here was domestic violence in marriage (DVIM).

Does it mean that Titiana also received a frequent violence in her marriage? There was no

information on that. Therefore, it is not impossible that such question was addressed among her blog visitors.

Others than that, the resume reminded us that VHMF wants to empower women to avoid as a victim of violence in marriage. In the last section of her resume, the writer clearly stated that VHMF was able to become a guide for the society in how to stop domestic violence to women. In short, this resume was also promoting the book to be read by the society.

Reading the resume of VHMF, a visitor, Willian Ratnawati, stated that the book resumed was a good one. She wrote, "This book is good for women to be read. It can empower female citizens. It can lead to a bravery of resisting every domestic violence in marriage."

So, was the bravery formed after the female visitor reading VHMF? It is difficult to answer to such a question. Obviously, there was no writing continuing form Titiana about the empowerment towards women. There is no a dialog in how women could use the best way to avoid violence.

Anyway the method of this needs have to be agreed. Because, there are many research, seminars, and books discussing about reducing the domestic violence behavior in marriage towards female, but the result is not satisfying. The social movement of advocating how female resist the violence has been for a while. However, the news of domestic violence towards women has been consistently appeared in mass media. In this point, we need to say that Titiana does not fully support the empowerment.

2) Address : <http://tribas.wordpress.com>

Owner : T r i B a s o e k i
Soelisvichyanto, the
Social Sciences Study
(S4), Activist of

the Society for ITB
Bandung and B-Club,
Breeding Club, IT
Alumnae, Jakarta

Residency : Jakarta
Active year : May 2005
Updating : Last updated on August 26,
2009; almost monthly
updated since
August 2005
Visitor status : 51,380 (August 26, 2009)

The writer of the article, Tri Basoeki, imagined that his writing would be read by Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono's government. However, the content of the material was not directly advantageous for the society. The society understand the profile of ideal minister, programs that should be done by the government, and the principle of real missions that should be conducted by the government.

On the minister's problem, Tri did not only talking about the qualification as competence, loyalty, and integrity, but also morality. As a presidential staff, a minister should protect the morality of the nation. Before guarding the morality of a nation, ideally a minister does not have his private matter. It is strange that a minister is expected to guard a nation's morality while he has a problem with his own.

On the program issues, Tri believed that every minister in the future should be able to draft a better program, that is important for the society and to increase the dignity of the society. However, he needs more than a guarantee that the society and the government should develop a laboratory for assuring the success of the program.

On the application of real work principle, Tri suggested that the government's official should not only too much talking, but they have to show more of their real actions.

All of his suggestions were basically explaining how important the morality of a nation's and state's life is. This explanation received a positive confirmation from a visitor. Heroic, the alias, who wrote, "I agree with you...hope this country is really becoming the host of his own country, and able to manage his own wealth...and is not bothered or dominated by foreign companies and other countries through the contracts which finally will harm us and benefit them. Hope that Indonesian people is able to enjoy the wealth of their own nation starting today."

This idea is applicable to the life of the society. They could apply Tri's idea in their everyday life.

The problem emerged then, how when the society who has applied the above idea must encounter the government who has not? Do they need to resist, or do demonstration? There was no answer from Tri. There was no next edition of Tri's. The Tri's expectation of creating a dialog which is able to create a consensus on that issue did not appear. Therefore, the empowerment done by Tri towards civil society can be concluded as a half-full of empowerment.

Interview data

1. Jogja blogger

1) Febri Diansyah said that he wanted to build an awareness of the society that the reform of law occurred in the post reformation was actually unable to change the life of politics, government, economic, social, and culture. He noted that there were many

corruption practices happened in many official bodies, starting from the parliament, departments, local government, courts, and so on. He did not want those kind of occurrences reappeared. Therefore, he wanted the society to have information on every disobedience of law conducted by the government officials. By this information, he expected that the society also guards the government officials for not breaking the constitutional norms.

So that was his main message told by Febri through his blog. Apart from all his messages, he expects that the society will respond to his article, gives a different perspective and criticize his article so his knowledge will also increase. By the information exchange, Febri hoped a consensus would have been created, a consensus on how pushing the government to respect the law.

Febri admitted that he had his own perspective in studying the constitutional phenomenon in Indonesia. However, he did not want to dominate the discourse of how to overcome the constitutional dispute in Indonesia. He wanted every issues are presented in the blog. Then he welcomed the society to choose the best and the most logical solution.

Regarding to his opinion, we understand that Febri actually wanted to empower the society in the constitutional problems in Indonesia. He wanted to develop a pro democratic power. However, the blogger data of him show that he did not fully empower the civil society.

2) Nur Rahman Arif said that he had many messages he wanted to discuss with the society. The message was already written explicitly in his article's title. However, generally, the message was a counterproductive to his intention to criticize the state and to empower the society. Therefore he

strived for his article to become inspirational.

Nur respected every response in his article. He did not mind of criticisms coming from his visitors. Because, he realized that an individual actually writes articles in blog in order to develop a dialogue on every problems of public interests. From the dialog every participants can learn and form a firm attitude when they have to face the state.

However, Nur admitted that he faced difficulties in writing article series on a topic. He felt burdened if he must write the next episode of a matter. He preferred to write an article that gives inspiration to his blog visitors leading them to write articles also.

Unfortunately, Nur's intention was never achieved. Responses coming from the visitors were not in the article format, but in few sentences. Therefore, it was difficult for Nur to create a dialog.

This fact was supported by the data blogger of Nur's. The data blogger present that Nur did not fully empower the civil society.

2. Solo blogger

1) Fikirjernih (clear mind), that fits to its name, truly want to ask the society to think clearly. He wanted to develop the society's thinking in order to develop Indonesia. "I do want to persuade the society to exercise their mind optimally in facing the nation's and the state's problem," added Fikirjernih.

However, Fikirjernih did not want to force his intention. He knew that every person has advantages and disadvantages. He respected every responses in his article. He noted very well every criticism pointing to his article. Then he made another article in order to give the feedback of the criticisms.

Sometimes Fikirjernih was affected to write his article based on the response of the visitor.

However, the idea was never realized. He did not have enough energy to manifest it. Therefore, the coming article was another article with different themes.

This fact was confirming the blogger data of Fikirjernih presenting that Fikirjernih was not fully empowering the civil society through his blog.

2) Tri Untoro admitted that many of his activities often gave him inspiration to write articles. Articles were intentionally written objectively in order to lead his reader to think it further or as a behavior guidance. However, he did not force his readers to accept all of his opinions. He welcomed everybody to criticize the articles' content. He was even happy if someday a dialog is happened between him and his commentator. Because, he wanted to develop an ability of logical and objective thinking.

Tri Untoro realized that many people could not access to his blog. He was sure also that not every body of his visitor reads his article from the beginning until the end. Therefore, he was very respecting the people who read them thoroughly. He even thought that the person was intentionally wanting to develop his knowledge and empowering himself.

Regarding to his attitude, Tri Untoro did not want to disseminate his opinion in his article. He provided data he had got from the press or books. More than that, he wrote the long articles heartily.

In the relation to the civil empowerment, Tri Untoro was sure that his writing, more or less, empowered the society. For him, society who can think clearly and logically is already becoming a powerful society. "By that thinking, they can solve their life problems better," added Tri Untoro.

This fact was suited to Tri's blogger data. It is because the data presented that Tri Untoro liked the

effort of the clear thing formation. For him, thinking clearly was a starting point of the empowerment process.

c. Surabaya blogger

1) Joeni Arianto Kurniawan said that there were two main reasons he wrote articles in blog, sharing knowledge and asking for revolution. For Joeni, the well informed society could be shared to accomplish Indonesian revolution. By this attitude, we could judge that Joeni was a provocateur or propagandist.

We do not know exactly how many peoples have been provoked by Joeni. However, he did not close his eyes to criticisms giving to him from his visitors. He was glad that there was other who had different perspective towards his. It underlined that Joeni did not put his emotion up in provoking the society, but the clear mind.

Joeni did see that many people did not know their constitutional rights. They also saw that the society did not realized that their constitutional rights have been violated. He witnessed many parties did not advocate them. Therefore, he felt responsible to defend them. In doing the adversary, he sometimes felt uncontrolled.

It might that since his intention for revolution was high, Joeni did not succeed to creating a dialog with his readers. No wonder if his blogger data presented that the empowerment he has done, seems to be unfulfilled.

2) Nuur Widiastono reported the problems faced by many people who have public official background. He showed a human aspect in the report. He did not have special message in every writing excepts that he wants to take part in every efforts to advance the society.

Nuur's opinion was that the effectiveness of

his writing was depending on the feedback of his readers. The more feedbacks he got, the more effective were his writings. To get the feedback, Nuur tried to write an actual problem occurred in social life in Surabaya and taking side in the public interests.

Nuur then was willing to have a dialog with his commentators. He would be very happy if the dialog produced a consensus applicable for many people in order to empower them. However, he admitted that there were not substantial and relevant responses. Therefore, he could not develop his idea further in his next writings. It seems that it was the reason why blogger data of Nuur turned to no dialogue between Nuur and his commentators.

d. Jakarta Blogger

1) Titiana Adinda wanted to campaign anti-domestic violence towards women. She has intentionally been doing that since she was forced by her belief that violence to human is a crime towards humanity. Therefore, she used many media, started from books to blog.

Due to her vigorous campaign on anti-domestic violence towards women, Titiana often received secret messages from women who were victims of the domestic violence. She was easily empathetic to them. Therefore, it was not difficult for her to empower them.

Of course it was not easy for us to judge the success of Titiana's campaign. However, we understand that Titiana was not an activist who likes the media exposure. She did not prefer to show up in news. She preferred to act. This of course produced a good impression amongst women. This impression might attract many females to read her writing and tell their stories to Titiana, who in turn was able to empower them.

2) Tri Basoeki Soelisvichyanto felt he had an original idea he could transfer to the society. The only hope was that the society would develop their potency optimally. "It the potency's of the society could be developed optimally, they cannot be fooled by the government easily," added Tri Basoeki.

Tri Basoeki was not regret if in the future the responses coming from the society was not relevant to his intentions. He only wanted to be realistic. Because, he was sure that his blog visitors had different motivation when they decided to read his article. Moreover, he was sure that his blog visitors had various experiences and knowledge.

Apart from that, Tri Basoeki did not mind if there would be a blog visitor who wanted to add information or to correct information he just provided. "I also want to advance my knowledge from my blog visitors," he added.

During his blog management period, Tri Basoeki always respects any individuals replying to his articles. He was eventually willing to develop a dialog with him. However, the blogger data did not show the dialog, meaning that the dialog was never accomplished. Why? According to Tri Basoeki, there were not many good feedbacks coming from his visitors. No wonder if Tri Basoeki seems to be doing the empowerment hesitantly.

Data Analysis

There are a lot of conclusions based on what has been presented in the bloggers data and the above interviews data. The most important is those eight bloggers seem to be unsuccessful in building a dialogue on the attitude that must be possessed by civil society when they encounter the state. As a result, they did not reach a consensus with their commentators in how the best attitude of civil society should be addressed in dealing with the state.

There are a lot of reasons uplifted by the bloggers, starting from the irrelevant responses of the commentators of the bloggers' article, the high interest of the bloggers to provoke their visitors, and the weak force of the bloggers in persuading the society to clearly think, the feel of the blogger which did not want to be burdened in writing the next episode the issues to the expectation of the blogger not to dominate their visitors' mind.

It could be that the eight bloggers felt uncomfortable with those facts. Even more, the bloggers were basically want to empower the society by their messages through their blogs. However, they realized with what actually happened: they did not fully empower people.

The next problem occurred is, what is the main burden of the bloggers in empowering civil society? To answer this question, the writer confirmed it by the relational concept between human and blog. Amongst many relational concepts between humans and blog, the writer intentionally adopted the concept of Pablo J. Baczowski. According to him, after reading an article in a blog, an individual must apply the interactivity principle. The principles are formed in the behavior of: (i) saying the right information if he reads that the information provided is not true; (ii) do not mind to express their opinions after they get information; (iii) expressing their knowledge about everything with a pleasure (Baczowski, 2002: 278). This concept states the need of interactivity principles application in the relations between human and blog. The interactivity principles are applicable very well if the involving participants put their opinions at first. This is of course logical. Since, as written by Karl Popper, information provided in blog is included to the third world, containing human mind and the products of human mind (in Bell, 2000:31).

The results of confirmation present that the eight bloggers and the commentators are not willing to apply interactivity principle. The bloggers are not willing to think further about what they have written. They think that the discussion of the articles is done when it has received a positive response from their commentators.

Conclusion

From the bloggers data, the interviews data and analysis data, the author concludes: (i) information report by the bloggers has brought message of empowerment, received positive responses from the visitors, and implied that the bloggers conducted a social function as a blogger; (ii) articles written by eight bloggers are unable to develop a dialogue for creating consensus on what should be done by civil society when they have to face the state; (iii) from the human and blog relations, the bloggers are not willing to apply interactivity principles when they have to accept responses from their blog's visitors; and (iv) the Indonesian bloggers do not fully empower civil society.

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Interview

Febri Diansyah, Yogyakarta, October 3, 2009.

Fikirjernih, Solo, September 27, 2009.

Joeni Arianto Kurniawan, Surabaya, October 1, 2009.

Nur Rahman Arif, Yogyakarta, September 28, 2009.

Nuur Widistono, Surabaya, October 1, 2009.

Titiana Adinda, Jakarta, October 5, 2009.

Tri Basoeeki Soelisvichyanto, Jakarta, October 5, 2009.

Tri Untoro, September 28, 2009.